

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 02-008(a) -
Outfall**

Technical Area (TA)-2, located in Los Alamos Canyon, housed several reactors, including the Omega West and Water Boiler Reactors. The reactors were shutdown, removed from the nuclear facilities list, and placed into the Laboratory's Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) program.

PRS History: PRS 02-008(a) is an outfall that discharged water from the Omega West Reactor cooling tower (Structure 2-49) to Los Alamos Creek. The cooling tower was built in 1957 and periodically discharged cooling water (possibly containing radioisotopes of chromium, zinc, and antimony) to the creek until 1963 when the liquid waste storage system was added to the Omega West Reactor system. Until the mid-1970s, potassium dichromate was routinely added to the cooling water to prevent corrosion of the aluminum heat exchangers. High levels of chromium have been found in soils on the creek bank near PRS 02-008(a). The cooling tower was removed in a D&D action in June 2000.

PRS 02-008(a) is listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module to the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The ER Project has not proposed the site for no further action.

Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 02-008(a) burned during the Cerro Grande fire. The intensity of upstream burn was low to moderate. The outfall discharges



on the banks of Los Alamos Creek. There is potential for erosion or scouring. The site

does not contain debris that could enter the flood watercourse. There are no structures that could interfere with or be impacted by flood mitigation efforts.

Accelerated Action Status: PRS 02-008(a) was evaluated after the Cerro Grande fire. ER Project personnel collected waste characterization samples to evaluate the need to remove the outfall; the data has not yet been validated or reviewed.

Related Documents:

"Solid Waste Management Units Reports," Vol. I of IV (TA-0 through TA-9) LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.

"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098 (TA-2, 41)," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.